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December 10, 1997

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Shinichi OSHIMA
"GOLF INSTRUMENT AND LABEL TO BE APPENDED THERETO"
Our Reference: Q48708

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 08/338,081 filed November 9, 1994, of Shinichi OSHIMA entitled "GOLF INSTRUMENT AND LABEL TO BE APPENDED THERETO."

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a copy of the prior application as originally filed, including the drawings and Declaration.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 3304.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: --This is a divisional of Application No. 08/338,081 filed November 9, 1994.--

Priority is claimed from May 16, 1994, based on Japanese Application No. 6-6528. The priority document was filed in parent Application No. 08/338,081.

Cancel claims: 1-5 and 10-11.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>4</u>	- 20 =	<u>0</u>	x \$22 = \$	<u>0.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	- 3 =	<u>0</u>	x \$82 = \$	<u>0.00</u>
Base Fee					\$ 790.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$ 790.00

A check for the statutory fee of \$790 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which

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08/338,081 - 12/10/97

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
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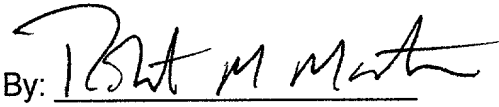
may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the Declaration is supplied, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

Also submitted herewith is a Form PTO-1449 citing each reference of record in prior application 08/338,081. A Preliminary Amendment will follow in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 
Robert M. Masters
Registration No. 35,603

20080414 16:33:30

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Golf Instrument and Label to Be Appended Thereto

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor which is labeled for indicating several functions of the golf instrument for insuring effective use thereof and a label appended to the golf article for such indication.

Prior Art

15 It is a common practice in the golf art that golf balls are provided with indications of hardness and golf clubs are provided with indications of shaft hardness for helping the golf player choose a matching golf ball or club.

20 Japanese U.M. Application Kokai No. 35315/1990 proposes a golf instrument in which a golf ball or club is provided at a proper position with a mark corresponding to a head speed.

Such a performance indication on the prior art golf instruments indicates only one of

25

various functions associated with the golf ball or club. With such a single criterion, the golfer encounters difficulty in choosing a golf ball or club best suited for his or her skill.

5 and aim. Differently stated, prior art golf instruments do not fully indicate their functions in visible form. In fact, many golfers use golf balls and clubs which do not fully match with their skill and aim.

10 Each golf ball or club is not characterized by a single function, but by a combination of many functions. If a player chooses a golf ball or club by considering its single function, the performance of the ball or
15 club does not always match with the skill and aim of the player. Then the player cannot take full or maximum advantage of the golf ball or club.

For enjoying a golf play, it is essential
20 for a player to use a golf ball or club which closely matches with the skill and aim of the player, in order to take maximum advantage of the golf ball or club. There is a desire for improvement in this respect.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a golf article including a golf instrument such as a golf ball and club and a package therefor, which is labeled such that the golfer may choose the golf instrument which matches with his or her skill and aim for allowing the golfer to take full advantage of the golf instrument such as a golf ball or club.

10 The present invention provides a golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor. The article includes a generally rectangular indication section disposed thereon for
15 indicating the performance of a golf instrument. The section is divided along longitudinal and transverse lines into a plurality of sub-
20 sections. At least two, preferably at least four marks or indicia are formed on selected
25 ones of the sub-sections for indicating at least two functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.

 In one preferred embodiment, the sub-

sections are grouped into a plurality of groups each including longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub-sections. The sub-sections in one group are provided with marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. One of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

Preferably the golf instrument is a golf ball and the golf instrument package is a box for receiving golf balls. The performance indicating section 4 including a plurality of longitudinally and transversely arranged sub-sections where the marks are disposed is disposed on the outer surface of the box.

The present invention also provides a label to be appended to a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor. The label includes a generally rectangular indication section disposed thereon for indicating the performance of the golf instrument. The section is divided along longitudinal and transverse lines into a plurality of sub-sections. At least two preferably at least four marks are formed on

selected ones of the sub-sections for
indicating at least two functions selected from
the group consisting of a golf instrument
structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin,
5 green targeting, and trajectory.

Preferably the sub-sections are grouped
into a plurality of groups each including
longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub-
sections. The sub-sections in one group are
10 provided with marks belonging to the same
function, but indicating different functional
species. One of the marks is selected for each
group in accordance with the performance of the
golf instrument.

15 The golf instrument and label to be
appended thereto according to the present
invention can represent a plurality of functions
of a golf ball or club in a matrix of
longitudinally and transversely arranged sub-
20 sections. The performance of a golf ball or
club can be expressed in terms of a plurality of
functions. Then the golfer can choose an
optimum golf ball or club in accordance with his
or her skill and desire. The inherent functions
25 of a golf ball or club well match with the skill

of the golfer. Then the golfer can take full advantage of the golf ball or club.

In the one preferred embodiment, the sub-sections are grouped into a plurality of groups each including longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub-sections, and the sub-sections in one group are provided with marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. Since one of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf ball or club, the golfer can understand that one function contains a plurality of different functional species. Since one of the marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species is selected, the golfer can easily choose the golf ball or club in accordance with his or her skill and aim. Then the golfer can play with the golf ball or club while taking full advantage of the golf ball or club.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a golf ball-accommodating box according to one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged plan view of a golf instrument performance indicating section on the box of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a golf ball—accommodating box according to another embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 4, 5, and 6 are enlarged plan view showing different examples of a golf instrument performance indicating section on the box of FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is a cross section of a label according to a further embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a plan view of a label according to a still further embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a golf ball box including a box body 2 for receiving a dozen of golf balls (not shown) and a cover 3 fitted over the box body 2 for covering a top opening thereof. An indication section 4 is printed or otherwise formed on the outer surface of the cover 3 for indicating the performance of a golf instrument (ball).

As best shown in FIG. 2, the section 4 is a generally rectangular block defined and delimited by a rectangular boundary line 5. The section 4 is divided into a plurality of sub-sections 7 by longitudinal and transverse lines, for example, by three or four longitudinal lines and four or five transverse lines, typically by four longitudinal lines and five transverse lines (not shown) in the illustrated embodiment. The sub-sections 7 are arranged in a matrix of rows and columns. Each sub-section 7 is a generally square block defined and delimited by a square boundary line 6. Attached to each sub-section 7 is a mark or indicia 8 consisting of words and/or a pattern for indicating a function.

The plurality of sub-sections 7 are grouped into a plurality of groups or rows each including longitudinally (laterally in FIG. 2) adjacent sub-sections 7. The sub-sections 7 in one group or row are provided with marks 8 belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. One of the marks is selected for each group or row in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument

(ball).

More particularly, a first row or group A includes six sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the golf ball structure and indicating whether the golf ball is a thread wound ball or a two-piece ball, whether the wound ball has a liquid center or a solid center or has a balata cover or a Surlyn cover, whether the cover is a double cover or not, and whether the two-piece ball is a soft type or a spin type.

A second row or group B includes four sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the optimum head speed of the golf balls and indicating whether the head speed is high, relatively high or moderate or whether the balls are compatible with the entire range of head speed. In the embodiment of FIG. 2, the second row or group B further includes a sub-section 7 which is spaced by one sub-section from the rightmost sub-section 7 bearing the head speed mark, for indicating whether the balls are intended for professional use.

A third row or group C includes six sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8

belonging to the golf ball feel and indicating whether the golf ball is felt very soft, soft or slightly soft when hit with the driver or putter.

5 A fourth row or group D includes five sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the spin of the golf balls upon hitting with an iron and indicating whether the spin is large, relatively large, ordinary,
10 relatively small or small.

 A fifth row includes a group E of two sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the type of green targeting and a group F of three sub-sections 7 to which are
15 attached marks 8 belonging to the golf ball trajectory. The groups E and F are separated by an empty sub-section. The two marks 8 in the sub-sections 7 of group E indicate whether the green is targeted by way of spin or height. The
20 three marks 8 in the sub-sections 7 of group F indicate whether the driver shot follows a high, intermediate or low trajectory.

 In each of the groups A to F, to show which function the golf ball has, or to
25 distinguish the functional mark corresponding to

the ball from the remaining functional marks,
the sub-section 7 where the functional mark
corresponding to the ball is formed is colored
in a color different from the remainders. For
5 example, the sub-section 7 bearing the
functional mark corresponding to the ball is
colored yellow while the remaining sub-sections
in the same row or group are colored white. In
this way, a selected sub-section or mark is
10 distinguished from the remaining sub-sections
or marks for each group, thereby indicating the
ball structure that the relevant balls have, the
recommended head speed, whether or not the balls
are for professional use, the feel upon driver
15 or putter hitting, the spin upon iron hitting,
the way of green targeting, and the trajectory
of driver shot.

Since various functions characterizing the
golf ball are displayed, the golfer can choose a
20 proper golf ball by taking into account all
these functions rather than a single one of
them. Since the golfer can fully understand the
ball performance from various aspects, the
golfer can choose an optimum golf ball which
25 closely matches with the golfer's own skill and

aim. Then the golfer can take maximum advantage
of the golf ball on playing.

The performance of a golf ball is
classified into groups of several functions and
5 each function is divided into a plurality of
different functional species. The performance
of a given golf ball is represented by a
combination of selected functional species or
marks from several functions or groups. Then on
10 choosing a golf ball, the golfer can understand
that the golf ball has various factors and
understand the functional position of the golf
ball among various types of golf balls.
Therefore the golfer can choose a golf ball
15 which matches with the golfer's ability.

Since a plurality of square sub-sections
7 are defined in the performance indicating
section 4 in longitudinal and transverse
directions, and since the function indicating
20 marks or signs 8 consisting of a catchword or
symbolic drawing are formed in the sub-sections
7, the performance of a given golf ball and its
position are readily acknowledged as compared
with the literal description of the performance
25 of a golf ball.

FIGS. 3 to 6 show another embodiment of the invention. A rectangular box 1 capable of receiving three golf balls (not shown) has an openable upper end. On one outside surface of the box is formed or appended a section 4 for indicating the performance of a golf instrument. As best shown in FIGS. 4 to 6, in the section 4, a plurality of sub-sections 7 are defined in longitudinal and transverse directions. In the illustrated embodiment, the section 4 includes three rows of laterally arranged sub-sections 7.

Unlike the embodiment of FIG. 2, the sub-sections 7 in this embodiment are provided with only functional marks 8 indicating the ball structure, professional use, optimum head speed, feel on driver shot, feel on putter shot, spin on iron shot, green targeting way, and driver shot trajectory. Those marks indicating different function species belonging to a common function, that is, marks which are not coincident with a given golf ball are omitted.

Also in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 3 to 6, the golfer can readily and surely choose a golf ball which matches with the golfer's own

skill and aim by taking into account various functions of the ball. Then the golfer can take full advantage of the ball.

FIG. 7 illustrates one exemplary label 11 to be appended to a golf instrument. The label 11 includes a support 12 made of paper or the like and an adhesive layer 13 on the back side of the support 12. On the front surface of the support 12 are printed or otherwise formed the sub-sections (7) together with marks (8), though not shown in FIG. 7, for indicating the functions of a given golf ball as shown in FIG. 2 or FIG. 4, 5 or 6. Through the adhesive layer the label is attached to a golf instrument such as a golf ball-accommodating box as shown in FIG. 1 or 3.

Another exemplary label 11 is shown in FIG. 8. The label 11 includes a support 12 made of paper or the like on which the golf instrument performance indicating section is printed or otherwise formed as in the foregoing embodiments, though not shown in FIG. 8. The label 11 is provided with an attachment hole 14 at the top. With a thread inserted into the hole 14, the label 11 is suspended from a golf

instrument package, typically a cage or net
containing a number of golf balls.

The performance indicating section on the
labels 11 shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 is the same as
5 described for the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1
to 6 and its description is omitted herein.

Although the foregoing description refers
to golf balls, the present invention is also
applicable to golf clubs and other golf
10 instruments and packages thereof.

The contour and arrangement of the section
4 and sub-sections 7 for indicating the
performance of a golf ball and the display of
the marks 8 for indicating various factors of a
15 golf ball are not limited to the illustrated
examples. Various modifications may be made
thereto within the scope of the invention.

Since a golf ball, club or other
instrument is labeled for several factors, the
20 golfer can correctly choose the golf ball or
club which matches with his or her skill and aim
for allowing the golfer to take full advantage
of the golf ball or club.

Japanese Utility Model Application No.
25 6-6528 is incorporated herein by reference.

CLAIMS:

1. A golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or
5 a package therefor, said article including
a generally rectangular indication section
(4) disposed thereon for indicating the
performance of a golf instrument, said section
being divided along longitudinal and transverse
10 lines into a plurality of sub-sections (7), and
at least two marks (8) formed on selected
ones of the sub-sections (7) for indicating at
least two functions selected from the group
consisting of a golf instrument structure,
15 recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
targeting, and trajectory.

2. The golf article of claim 1 including
at least four marks (8) for indicating at least
four functions selected from the group
20 consisting of a golf instrument structure,
recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
targeting, and trajectory.

3. The golf article of claim 1 wherein
said sub-sections (7) are grouped into a
25 plurality of groups each including

longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub-
sections (7),

the sub-sections (7) in one group are
provided with marks (8) belonging to the same
5 function, but indicating different functional
species,

one of the marks is selected for each
group in accordance with the performance of the
golf instrument.

10 4. The golf article of claim 3 including
at least four marks (8) for indicating at least
four functions selected from the group
consisting of a golf instrument structure,
recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
15 targeting, and trajectory.

5. The golf article of claim 2 or 4 which
is a golf instrument package in the form of a
box (1) for receiving golf balls, wherein

the performance indicating section 4
20 including a plurality of longitudinally and
transversely arranged sub-sections where the
marks are disposed is disposed on the outer
surface of the box (1).

6. A label (11) to be appended to a golf
25 instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or

a package therefor, said label including

5 a generally rectangular indication section
(4) disposed thereon for indicating the
performance of the golf instrument, said section
being divided along longitudinal and transverse
lines into a plurality of sub-sections (7), and
at least two marks (8) formed on selected
ones of the sub-sections (7) for indicating at
least two functions selected from the group
10 consisting of a golf instrument structure,
recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
targeting, and trajectory.

7. The label of claim 6 including at
least four marks (8) for indicating at least
15 four functions selected from the group
consisting of a golf instrument structure,
recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
targeting, and trajectory.

8. The label of claim 6 wherein said sub
20 -sections (7) are grouped into a plurality of
groups each including longitudinally or
transversely adjacent sub-sections (7),

the sub-sections (7) in one group are
provided with marks (8) belonging to the same
25 function, but indicating different functional

species,

one of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

5 9. The label of claim 8 including at least four marks (8) for indicating at least four functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green
10 targeting, and trajectory.

10. The label of claim 7 or 9 wherein said golf instrument is a golf ball.

11. The label of claim 7 or 9 wherein said golf instrument is a golf club.

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ABSTRACT

On a golf ball-containing package, a rectangular indication section (4) is defined for indicating the performance of a golf ball. The section (4) is divided into rows of longitudinally arranged sub-sections (7). Marks (8) are formed on selected ones of the sub-sections (7) for indicating a golf ball structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.

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FIG.1

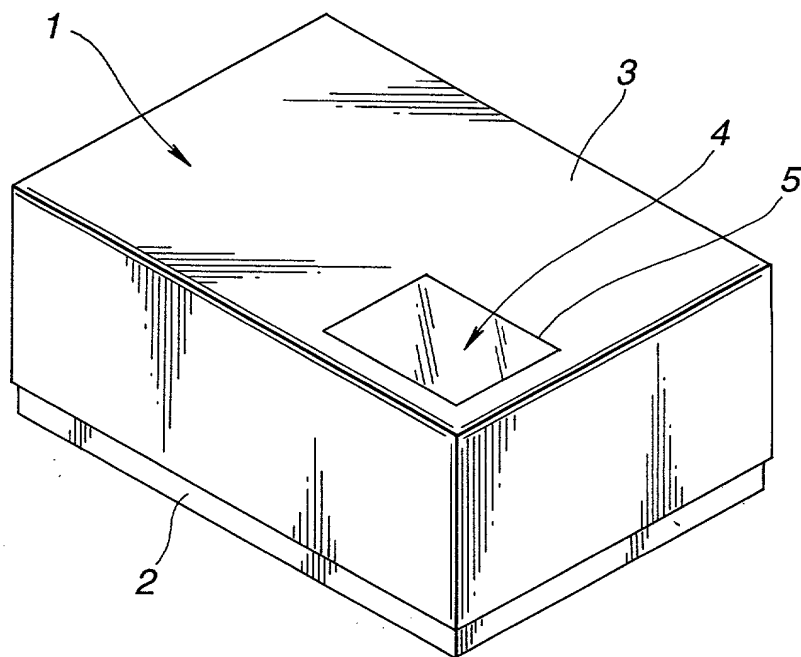


FIG.2

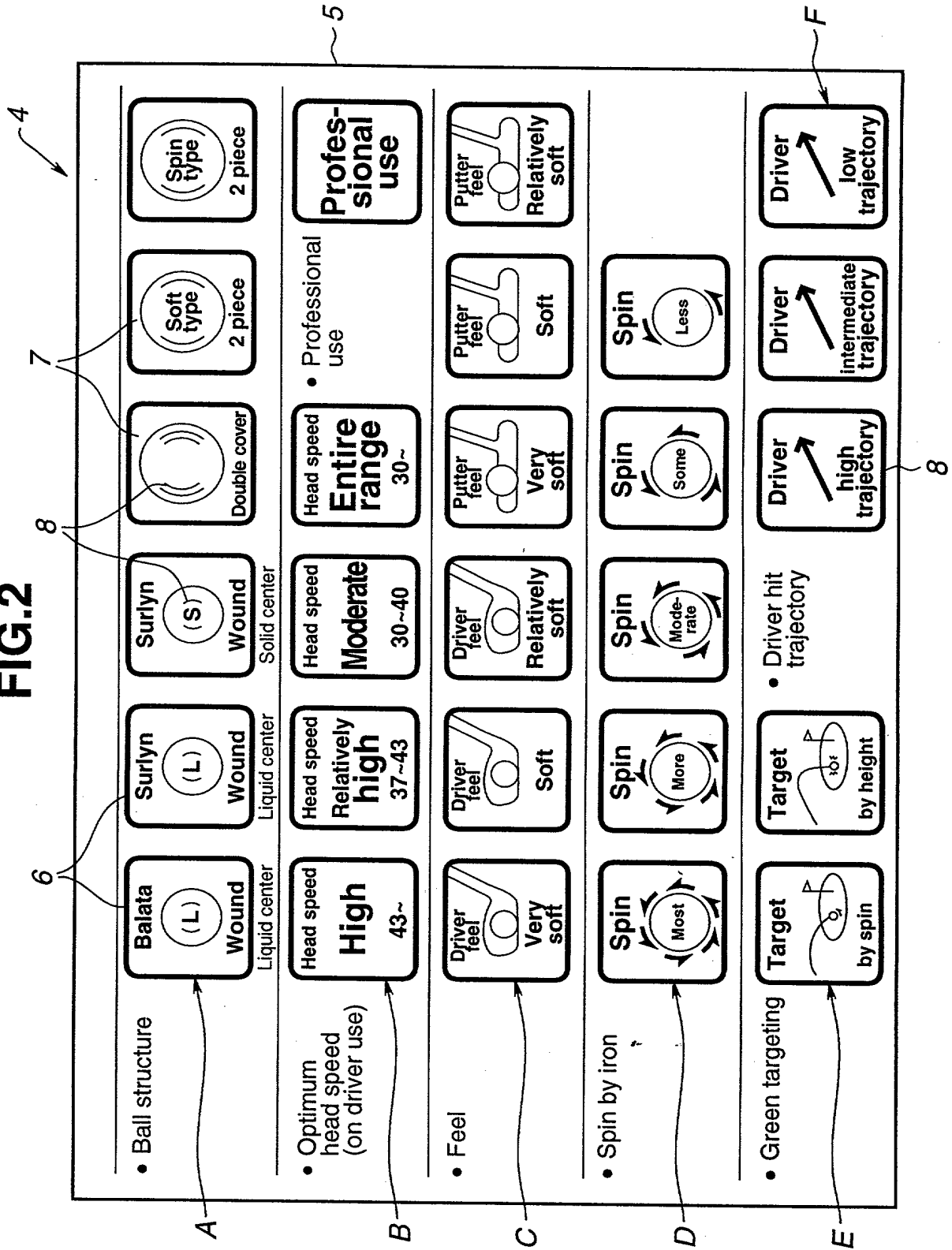


FIG.3

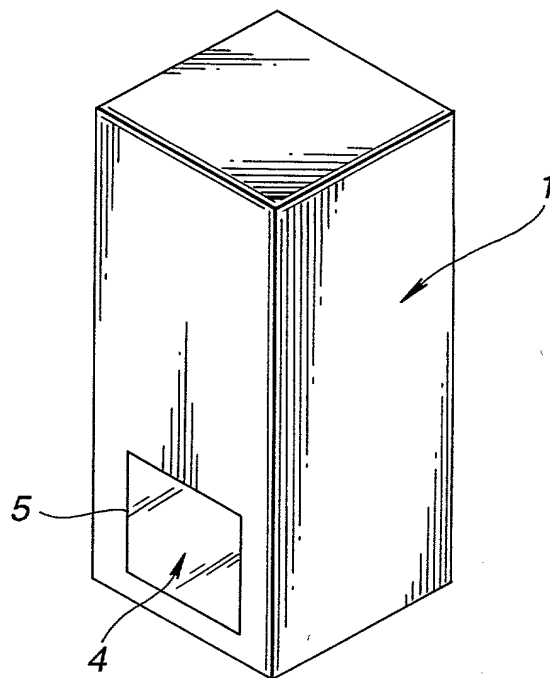


FIG.4

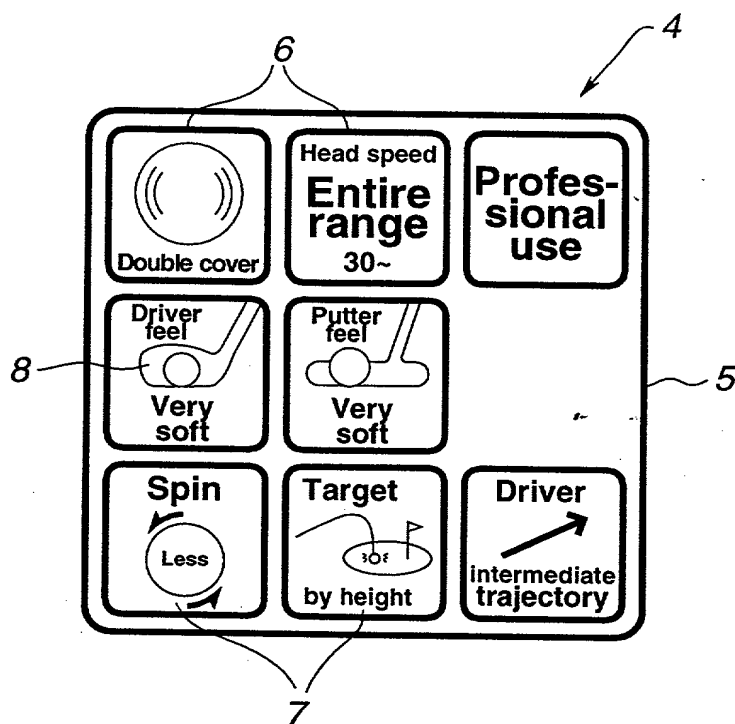


FIG.5

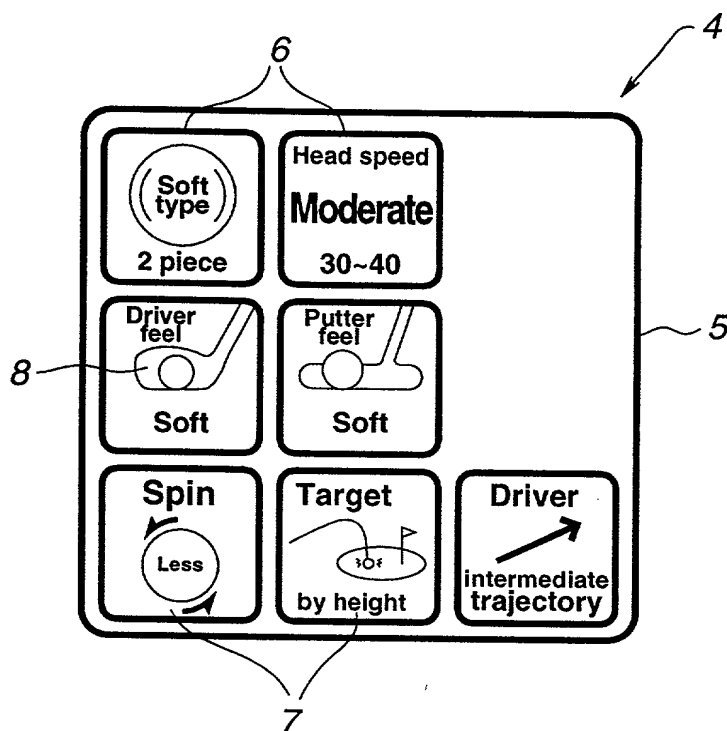


FIG.6

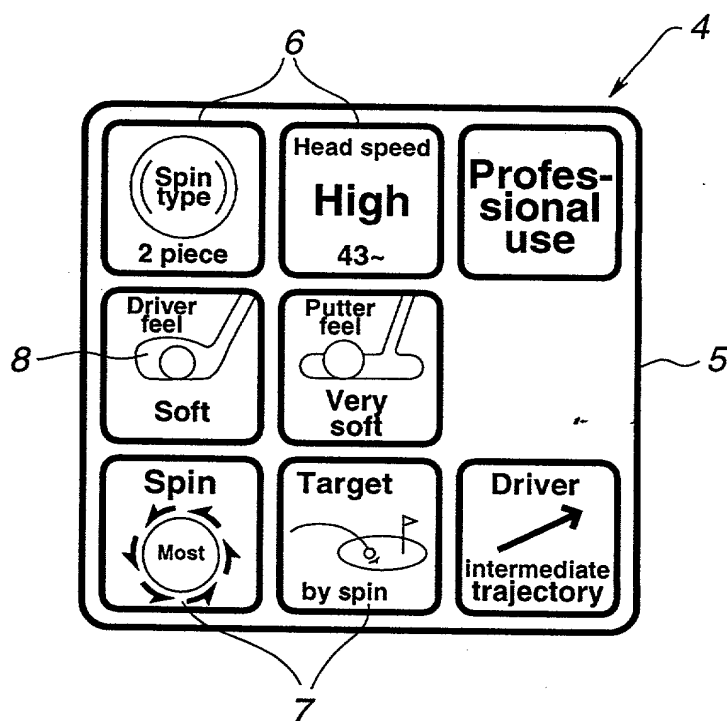


FIG.7

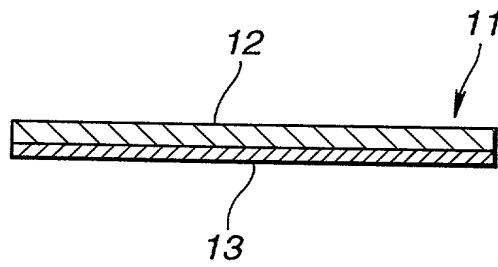
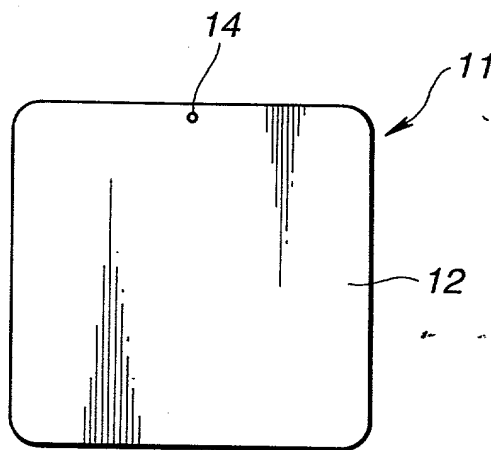


FIG.8



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled: Golf Instrument and Label to Be Appended Thereto

which application is:

☒ the attached application
(for original application)

☐ application Serial No. _____
filed _____, and amended on _____

(for declaration not accompanying application)

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above: that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a), i.e., such information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent: that I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified on said list any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (yes or no)
6-6528	Japan	May 16, 1994	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any material information under 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
------------------------	-------------	--

I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Donald E. Zinn, Reg. No. 19,046; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Robert G. McMorrow, Reg. No. 19,093; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; and Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date November 1, 1994 First Inventor Shinichi Oshima
First Name Middle Initial Last Name
Residence Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Signature Shinichi Oshima
Japan Post Office Address c/o Bridgestone Sports Co., Ltd., 45,
Citizenship Japanese Higashimatsushita-cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, Japan

Date _____ Second Inventor _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name
Residence _____ Signature _____
Post Office Address _____
Citizenship _____

Assignment

Whereas, I/We, Shinichi Oshima of
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

hereinafter called assignor(s), have invented certain improvements in

Golf Instrument and Label to Be Appended Thereto

and executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America therefor on
November 1, 1994; and

FILED

NOV - 9 1994

Whereas, Bridgestone Sports Co., Ltd., of
45, Higashimatsushita-cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
(assignee), desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in the application and invention, and to
any United States patents to be obtained therefor;

Now therefore, for valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,

I/We, the above named assignor(s), hereby sell, assign and transfer to the above named assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the application and the invention disclosed therein for the United States of America, including the right to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and I/we request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in the application to the assignee, its successors and assigns; and I/we will execute without further consideration all papers deemed necessary by the assignee in connection with the United States application when called upon to do so by the assignee.

I/We hereby authorize and request my attorneys SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS of 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3202 to insert here in parentheses (Application number _____, filed _____) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

Date: Nov. 1, 1994 s/ Shinichi Oshima

Date: _____ s/_____

Date: s/_____

Date: s/_____

Date: _____ s/_____

(Legalization not required for recording but is prima facie evidence of execution under 35 U.S.C. §261)